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To Examiner Gailene Gabel

Fax (571) 273-0820

From Stephen G. Ryan
Registration No.: 39,015
(732) 457-8071

Date/Time June 22, 2004 / 16:30EST

Number of pages including this one 21

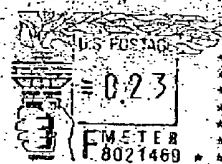
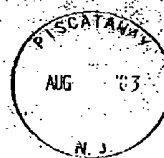
Dear Examiner Gabel: Pursuant to your request, please find attached a copy of the papers mailed on April 8, 2004, namely the Amendment (17 pages), Combined Notice of Appeal and Petition for Extension of Time (2 pages) and return postcard stamped by the Finance Department on April 12, 2004 (1 page). Should you have any questions or require any additional documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your continued assistance. Respectfully submitted: Stephen G. Ryan

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Our Reference Number: PA97620Serial Number: 09/555,102Filing Date: July 17, 2000

The USPTO acknowledges and has stamped hereon the date of receipt of the items checked below.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Specification — ____ pgs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Part B — Fee(s) Transmittal (w/copy) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract — 1 pg. | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication Fee — \$ ____ (Dep. Acct.) |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief in triplicate — ____ pgs. |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> PTO-1449 — ____ pgs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequence Listing printed version — ____ pgs. (w/required statements — ____ pgs.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response to <u>12/12/03</u> Office Action — <u>17</u> pgs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequence listing on 4 CDs / 1 diskette |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of <u>2</u> months time (w/copy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment — ____ pgs. |
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/555,102
Applicant : Nicholas Thomas
Filed : July 17, 2000
TC/A.U. : 1641
Examiner : Gailene Gabel

Confirmation No.: 9263

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Docket No. : PA9720
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April 8, 2004

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office action of November 12, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

Applicants are also submitting, concurrently herewith, a "Combined Notice of Appeal from the Primary Examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) (Large Entity)" extending the period of response two months from February 12, 2004, up to and including April 12, 2004.